

# Topaz Times

THE CITY

Pre-issue No. 3 Topaz, Utah September 30, 1942

## INDUCTION OF 7 COUNCILMEN SLATED FOR 7:30 TONIGHT

Seven members of the Topaz Community Council, elected last Monday, will be inducted tonight at 7:30 PM in Dining Hall #11. Taking the oath of office are Vernon Ichisaka, Block #3; Shigeru Kosakura, Block #5; Ernest Iiyama, #6; Kay Nishida, #7; Dr. Carl Hirota, #13; Sam Yagyu, #13; and Shinji Yamamoto, Block #14.

Charles F. Ernst, project director, will induct the officers and discuss various phases of community government.

Immediately following the induction, the Council will select a temporary chairman and secretary and meet for its first session. The agenda includes the formation of a temporary judiciary commission and a temporary educational council, and also the appointment of a smaller body, to be known as the board of education.

In addition, Roscoe Bell, chief of the Agricultural Division, will present several plans for the improvement of the City. The Council will choose the best plan for its use.

A special section has been reserved for administration officials, members of the election committee, block managers and others who have helped in the formation of community government. The public is invited to attend.

In Monday's election the greatest interest was  
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## FARM WORKERS SOUGHT HERE FOR SUGAR BEET HARVEST

Vernon W. Baker, from the regional office of the WRA, and representatives from 4 sugar companies arrived in Topaz early this week to meet persons interested in sugar beet harvest work.

"We appeal to every available farm worker to contact us immediately," Baker said, "in order to alleviate the acute labor shortage of this region. We can use everyone as work is plentiful. In view of the great need for peak agricultural production, residents of the project may consider their cooperation at this time as a patriotic gesture in behalf of the defense effort."

Baker and the 4 representatives have been meeting prospective workers at Recreation Hall #3 since Monday afternoon. They will remain for a few more days, and residents may see them from 9 AM to noon and 1 to 5 PM.

It was emphasized that no charge would be made for dependents left in the relocation center, that workers would be paid in cash, and that all enlistments would be on a voluntary basis.

Recruiting of workers in other assembly and relocation centers has already begun with successful results. Between Sept. 10 and 23, 1200 to 1400 workers were secured from all the centers. Before recruiting is completed at Topaz, it is expected that about 1000 workers will be hired.

Besides sugar beet work, farmers will need help for  
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## OUTSIDE WORK

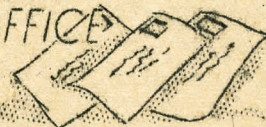
The movement to place Topaz residents in outside work is now under way, it was revealed this week by the City's Placement bureau. By Monday afternoon, more than 20 persons were working for nearby firms and farms.

The first man in this movement was Roy Takagi, from San Francisco, who was hired last Tuesday (Sept. 22) as a payroll clerk for the Daley Bros. Construction Co., now at work on the Topaz Project.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, the Daley Bros. hired a group of workers, including George Inouye, as an engineer; George Shigezumi, Toshimi Ogawa, Ichiro Fukutomi, as accountants; Yukio Hibino, Hayato Kihara, Tokutsugu Wakita, Harry Sekigahama, Arthur Kaku and Bob T. Kimura, laborers.

The Placement bureau announced that all persons interested in outside work may register with the bureau.

## POSTOFFICE



The number of letters leaving Topaz daily outnumber the incoming mail by 300. The average amount of outgoing letters per day is now 1200, while approximately 900 are received; according to Hideo Iye-ki, present head of the postoffice.

The incoming mail reaches Topaz around 10 AM daily except Sunday, and is distributed to the block managers' offices once a day. Outgoing mail leaves by 4:30 PM. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  of these are sent by airmail.

It was pointed out that no money orders can be made at present. And all residents who change their addresses within the City were requested to notify the PO and their friends as soon as possible.

Though located at pre-  
(Continued on Page 5)



# DIVISIONS

## DINING HALLS



Most of the dining halls will be opened after the City is filled and the kitchen equipments arrive, according to Brandon Watson, chief project steward.

At present, except for a few exceptions, each hall is serving residents from 2 blocks. When the halls begin to function on the intended basis of one hall for each block, each hall will have a maximum staff of 38 workers. A total of 1500 persons will eventually be working in the halls and the commissary.

**FOOD:** As to the food served at the halls, Watson reassured newcomers to Topaz that the food was not to blame for the abdominal ailments now common among the residents here. He pointed out that this condition was prevalent among construction workers and administrative officials even before the City's dining halls were opened.

**MILK SUPPLY:** The City's milk supply is coming from Delta, where it is pasteurized at 160° F. and chilled to 35° F. before delivery. All perishables are coming from California, while Nevada supplies the meat.

At present, according to Watson, milk is available for babies and elderly persons, and attempts are being made to increase the supply. He explained that "As requisition for food goes to the regional office in San Francisco about 50 days ahead of time on the basis of population-need, we must sometimes adapt the supply to the demand, as when the population exceeds the estimate on which the requisition was based."

**STAFF DUTIES:** Watson arrived in Topaz on August 25 to set up the dining hall system. Prior to coming here, he was at Manzanar studying the conditions there.

As chief project steward, it is Watson's responsibility to order the City's food supplies from the regional office and to store and issue the foodstuffs as they arrive. The latter function includes that of daily transportation of adequate foodstuffs to the City's dining halls.

Charles Crawford and Ed Allen assist Watson in the stewarding department. -NAY

## HOUSING



The housing department reported this week that the majority of the families coming to Topaz from Tanforan fall into the categories of married couples or families of 3 members, and this situation has created a major housing problem in that only the A and F apartments (2

out of every 6 units) have been designed for such small families.

To meet this situation, Claude E. Cornwall, chief of the Housing Division, last Thursday advanced a recommendation to Lee N. Nofztger, chief of the Public Works Division, advising that a group of 24 apartment buildings be divided into 12 units, instead of the present 6 units, for occupancy by married couples. Cornwall maintained that a majority of the couples have expressed themselves as willing to accept smaller space if this would enable each couple to have their own room.

**ADJUSTMENTS:** Meanwhile, Arthur Eaton, head of the Quarters Section, has appointed Ernest Iiyama as chief of provisions of adjustments, the Rev. Masa Wakai as head of the family adjustments bureau, and Kazuo Fujii as the head of the single men's adjustments bureau. These bureaus are housed in the Quarters Section's temporary headquarters, in the east section of Rec #4.

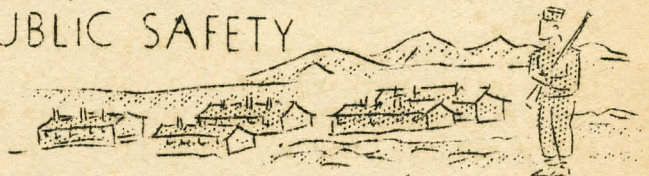
**MATTRESS PROBLEM:** Two-day delays in the arrival of housing supplies, such as mattresses and blankets, have caused temporary shortages in these supplies and have added to the problems of the Quarters section. By Saturday, according to a survey made by the distributing group, the majority of the families had been provided adequately with cotton mattresses and army blankets.

**FIRST MOVEMENT:** A total of 4,248 persons had been housed in Topaz City by Thursday evening when the first movement from Tanforan was ended. This movement (exclusive of the advance group that came here on Sept. 11) covered the period from Sept. 17 through Sept. 24, with an average of 500 persons arriving each day. The families averaged 4 members.

**SECOND MOVEMENT:** The second movement began Monday, according to the following general schedule of arrivals:

Sept. 28, residents for blocks 27 and 28; Sept. 29, blocks 29 and 30; Sept. 30 blocks 36 and 37; Oct. 1, 31 and 38; Oct. 2, 32 and 39; Oct. 3, 33 and 40; Oct. 4, indefinite. -Harumi Kawahara

## PUBLIC SAFETY



Ralph B. Fridley, commissioner of the division of Public Safety, this week cautioned residents of Topaz to remain within the occupied area of the project.

He stated, "This regulation is more in the interest of the construction work now on, rather than to limit the activities of the residents. It would not be amiss at this time to say that lumber will be distributed to residents by the pro-rata system, to be fair to all. Due to this measure, there is no need



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for any hoarding of lumber at present."

**DRIVERS:** Drivers of vehicles were advised to observe the present Project speed limit of 15 miles per hour in order to reduce the dust hazard and minimize the possibilities of accidents to pedestrians.

When the Community Council is organized to the extent that it can draft laws, the division will concern itself with the enforcement of such measures, Fridley added.

**STAFF:** A Caucasian deputy commissioner will assist Fridley. The remaining officers will consist of residents. In order of ranking, they are: chief of public safety, captains, lieutenants, inspectors and wardens. -KN

## PUBLIC WORKS



The Public Works division, through its irrigation project, will contribute to the fight against the dust problem now troubling Topaz City, according to Lee N. Noftzger, division chief.

The division's plans are that irrigation water will be brought to the southeast corner of Topaz, and a system of ditches will be laid throughout the City, for irrigation and dust alleviation. The irrigation project will include the irrigation of 3240 acres, one mile east of the City proper, for alfalfa and other agricultural products.

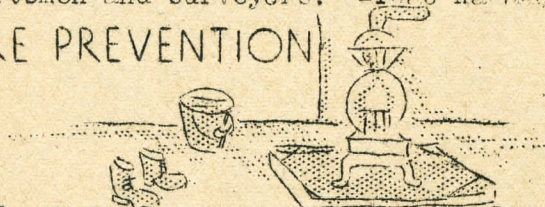
Another important task planned by the division is that of making a topographical survey of the entire Project area, which consists of 27 sections or 17,483 acres.

**CITY BUILDINGS:** As to construction of buildings, it was indicated priorities have been secured for the City's proposed high school and 2 elementary schools, and construction work on these buildings is being planned.

Included among other buildings planned for immediate construction are 3 machinery sheds, carpenter, plumbing and garage repair shops.

**STAFF:** There are now some 30 residents employed in the Public Works division as architects, civil engineers, draftsmen and surveyors. -Iwao Kawakami

## FIRE PREVENTION



In the expectation that the City's fire hazards will be increased appreciably with the use of coal stoves in the apartments, the following points were called to the residents' attention by Samuel V. Owen, chief of the Fire Protective Division:

1. Don't let rubbish accumulate.

2. Don't hang clothing too close to stoves and electric globes.

3. Take extreme care in the use of electric irons, hot plates, pads, and other electrical appliances.

4. Have fire extinguishers filled with water at all times so that they may be available for instantaneous use.

"Fire is like a disease," Owen said, "Just as doctors quarantine any source of infection, so must we scrupulously eliminate all fire hazards and quarantine any person who permits any such conditions to exist."

**ORGANIZATION:** A fire alarm system will be installed shortly, and members of the Internal Security force will cooperate with the fire department in establishing fire patrols. Two engines will be acquired and will be manned by 18 men to an engine, with 3 shifts of crew on duty 24 hours of the day.

Serving under Owen will be a resident fire chief and assistant chief, a captain for each crew, a chief mechanic and a captain in charge of fire prevention. The entire organization will have about 80 members.

**FACTORS:** Some of the unfavorable factors for fire control in this City, Owen said, were the low humidity of the region, high wind, frame buildings and coal heating. He expects to offset them by inspiring greater vigilance and higher efficiency among the crew. -KN

## BEAUTIFICATION



A program for community beautification, calling for trees, shrubberies, lawns and athletic fields, is now being formulated by the City's landscape designers under the direction of Roscoe Bell, chief of the agricultural division.

A staff of 3 landscape architects have practically completed their designs, which will be submitted to the Community Council as soon as possible.

The present plans, according to Bell, are as follows:

**EACH BLOCK:** Each block will be provided with its own miniature park in the space opposite the rec hall, and it will also have trees, shrubberies and lawns, to be laid out in accordance with the desires of the residents of the block. Considerable leeway is being provided for expression of individual initiative and taste, and the final appearance of the City will depend largely upon the amount of effort the residents are willing to expend for beautification.

**ATHLETIC FIELDS:** The main athletic field will be situated in the broad stretch of land adjoining the City blocks on the south side. In it will be located a skating rink, baseball diamond, softball grounds, football field (over)



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and possibly a golf course, according to present tentative plans. The open space to the east of the City blocks will probably hold tennis courts.

**CEMETERY:** The community cemetery will be laid out on a plot located southeast of the City proper. It will be marked by a central court for memorial services.

**STAFF:** Working on the plans are Tom Takaki and Don Akamatsu, both graduates, in landscape architecture, of the University of California, and Joe Korematsu, landscape designer.

**START:** Residents were asked to wait until the Community Council has approved the general plans before beginning any extensive work on their blocks so that provisions may be made for rough grading and such necessities as walks, paths and service areas.

Some 10,000 cuttings for shrubberies, suitable to Topaz's climate and soil, are now available and will be planted this fall.

**HOPE:** The trees and shrubs, together with the improvement of roads and streets, will largely eliminate the dust clouds that now plague the City.

## AGRICULTURE



(The following information on agricultural plans for Topaz was released this week by Roscoe Bell, chief of the Agricultural Division)

**PROJECTS:** According to the present plans of the administration, crops to be grown here will differ from the general produce of Central Utah. Sugar beets and a wide variety of truck crops, including spinach, celery, tomatoes and carrots, will be grown, together with melons, cucumbers and sunflowers. Some field crops, such as alfalfa, barley and wheat, will be raised, but their use will be limited to that of feeding the cattle and poultry on the Project. Poultry and hog farms are definitely planned, and it's possible some beef cattle will be kept to consume surplus fodder, but no dairy cows are expected.

William C. Farrell, head of the Agricultural Production Section, has advised the division of possibilities of establishing a bee farm with an initial stock of 100 hives, but this is yet to be approved by the Project Director.

There will be no orchards because of unfavorable climate and soil.

**FARM AREA:** The size of the entire area is approximately 18,000 acres, of which about 10,000 acres are irrigated for agricultural work. It's planned that 7,000 acres will be planted for the first year.

**WORK PLANS:** At present, approximately 20 persons are working under the agricultural division. A part of this crew

is surveying and selecting the land to be farmed next year, while the others are starting to clear the greasewood for plowing. Results of the survey are not ready for release at present. Plantings, which will probably start as early as next month, will be staggered to provide fresh crops throughout the summer months.

About 75 men will be employed as the regular farm crew. More workers will be employed for related work; and as much as 300 to 500 workers may be working at one time for harvesting, which will start as early as next June unless unforeseen difficulties arise. Harvesting of field crops will come between mid-September and October 31.

**EQUIPMENT:** There is no agricultural equipment at the present time, but adequate machinery is expected for the planting and harvesting seasons. About 4 caterpillar and 15 wheel tractors, along with all necessary accessories, are expected to arrive any day. If necessary, farm equipment will be rented in order that farm work may be started immediately.

**IRRIGATION:** The irrigation is done through 3 major canals flowing from the Gunnison Bend Dam and Reservoir, wherein flows the Sevier River (which runs southwards along the western rim of Delta). The canals were originally constructed by the Mormon pioneers of the mid-nineteenth century and have undergone a number of repairs. Workers from Topaz are expected to develop these canals further.

**PROFITS:** Bell expressed the belief that the agricultural project will show profit. "It is certain for one thing," he said, "that we shall have a great deal of self-sufficiency in regard to food. The quality of the food here will be improved since we shall have really fresh vegetables."

**PROBLEMS:** Because the soil of the farm area is not consistent, at least one year will be needed before the division, through experience, can gain knowledge as to what are the specific possibilities of the area. Farrell explained that: "It is known that most crops will grow somewhere in this area. The major problem we face is the inconsistency of the area soil; that is, the soil of certain parts of the proposed farm is suitable for agricultural development, while the soil of other parts will grow hardly anything. We have to manage to get the right crops on the right land."

Plant disease appears to offer no appreciable threat, as based upon the conditions existing in all the agricultural communities surrounding Topaz. Grasshoppers and certain types of alfalfa beetles may offer some trouble, but it is the opinion of the division that they may be brought under control.

-Daniel Ota



## THE CITY

sent in the administration recreation hall, west of the administration buildings, the postoffice will move within 2 weeks to a nearly completed building by the fire-house.

Since mail service began Sept. 13, with Benji Murota as the lone mail carrier, an avalanche of new arrivals has necessitated the increasing of the PO personnel to 9. Beside Iyeki and Murota, the other members of the staff, including clerks, sorters and carriers, are Susumu Takei, Kimiko Yamadera, George Kido, Toru Yamauichi, Walter Nakata, Frank Uchida and William Hirano. Also assigned to the PO are 2 men from the Division of Public Safety--Sam Yamamoto and John Oshida.

### ACCIDENT

A truck carrying 3 persons went into a deep pipe ditch near the northeast corner of Block 11 Monday night at 7:30 PM.

The driver, Kiyoshi Akita, 7-8-A, received 2 stitches in the right temple for lacerations, at the Topaz Hospital.

Frank Sasagawa, helper, was thrown into a gravel pile, while Kazuichi Tsuji, riding on the back of the truck, escaped without injury.

Akita and Sasagawa were taking Tsuji's freight boxes to his apartment at 22-6-B.

### BIRTH



Topaz City's second birth was recorded a little after 7 AM on Saturday, Sept. 26, when a 5 lbs. Baby girl was born to Mrs. Aki Moriwaki, 19-9-C. Dr. Eugenia Fujita was the attending physician.

The girl was named Suga Ann, after her aunt (Suga). Ann is 4 days younger than Eugenia Takaki, born Tuesday morning, Sept. 22, at the Infirmary.

Mrs. Moriwaki, the former Saku Baba of S.F., when interviewed, said that she wished Suga Ann

"to become a useful citizen to help the people." Also, since she used to be a music teacher, Mrs. Moriwaki hoped Suga Ann would take up music when she grew up.

The father, happy and excited, could only mumble, "We'll build her a nice home." Later, he was able to agree with his wife that the train ride from Tanforan must have hurried the birth, and that the Topaz medical staff had their fullest confidence.

Because of his wife's expectancy, Aki, who came here with the Sept. 18th contingent as a train captain, did not apply for steady employment, but worked as a volunteer with the baggage crew and at the induction center. Aki was a wholesale florist in San Francisco.



Regarding the City's water supply, Capt. H. F. Dyer, area engineer of the U. S. Engineers, stated: "Analysis of our water by the State Board of Health revealed that there are some dissolved common salt in the water, but the water is safe for drinking." The same view was also expressed

by Dr. W. S. Ramsey, the City's chief medical officer.

As to diarrhea, Capt. Dyer pointed out that various factors could contribute to its occurrence, including the high altitude and the extreme change in climate.

To insure safety from pollution, the water is given chlorination treatment; and as an improvement to the rudimentary system of chlorination used previously, a chlorinator was installed this week for constant chlorination. At present the City is consuming water at the rate of approximately 100 gals. per minute. Capt. Dyer added that he expects to build enough wells to provide 1,000,000 gals. in 16 hours.

### SAFETY

Ralph B. Fridley, commissioner of Public Safety, today said:

"Drivers of all vehicles are cautioned to observe the Center speed regulation of 15 miles per hour.

"Do not park within 25 feet of buildings unless loading or unloading.

"Keep on main roads; drive carefully.

"Drive slowly over roads covered with dust."

## MORE ON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

shown in Block #5, where 126 voters out of 209 eligible turned out. Shigeru Kosakura, one of the councilmen at Tanforan, won the representative's post with 106 votes.

But while certain blocks were electing their representatives, others---formed later---were preparing for their elections. Election committees oiled the machinery for balloting in Blocks 9, 10, 11 and 16, which held their nomination meetings last Monday and Tuesday.

It was emphasized that block managers were eligible to run for the Community Council, but if elected, they must resign their block managership.

In the 4 blocks, the following residents were appointed election committee members:

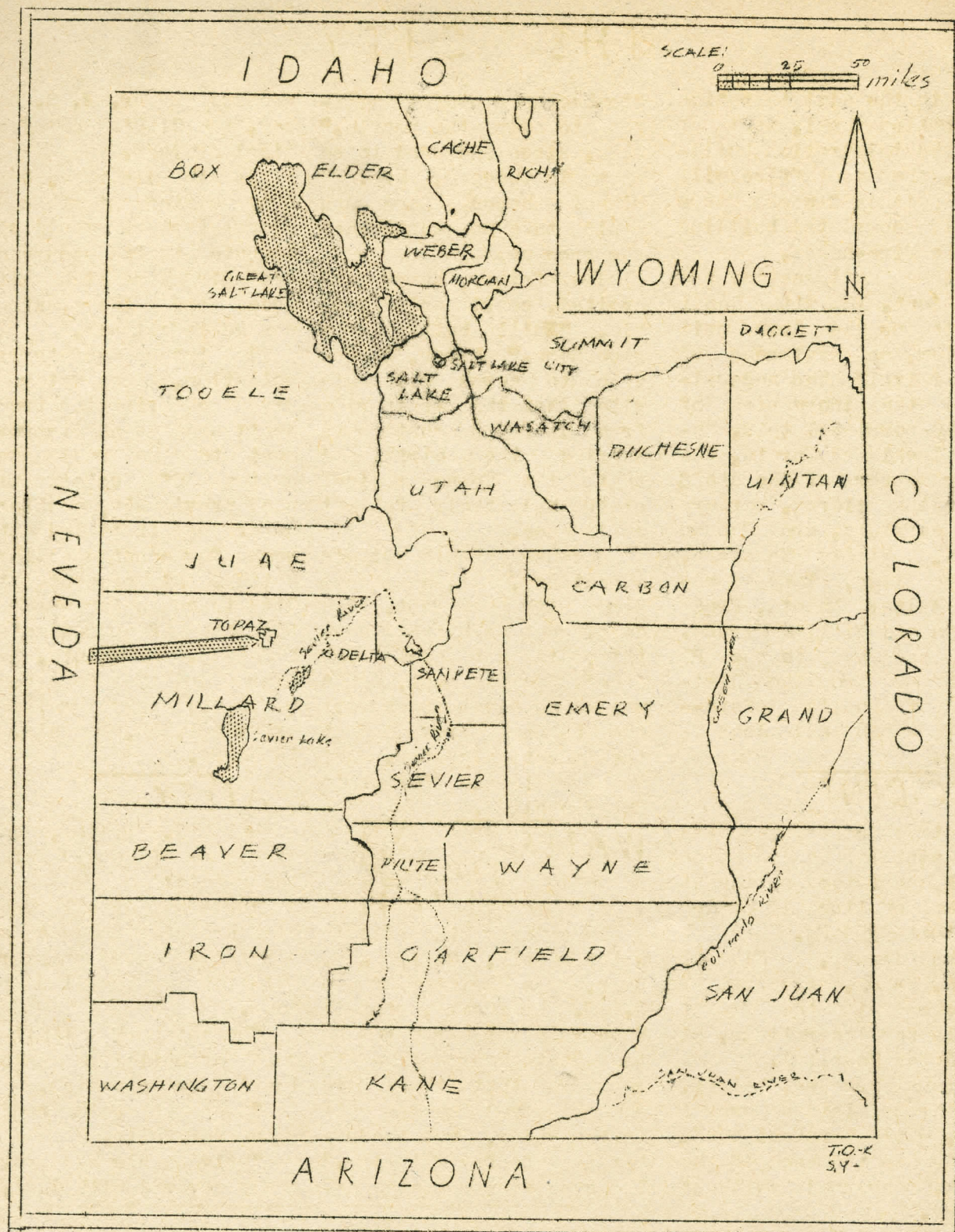
**BLOCK 9**--J. S. Aoki, Harry Kanda, Kazuo Masuda, M. Fukawa, Kaneo Kido.

**BLOCK 10**--Hikochi Tajima, Tom Tanase, Hajime Yoshizawa, Hideo Ikeda, James Yamamoto.

**BLOCK 11**--K. Kasai, M. Nakazawa, T. Yatabe, M. Yoshida, S. Yamauchi.

**BLOCK 16**--Masato Onishi, Masazo Shimizu, Tsuyako Kataoka, Paul Fujii, Osuke Takezawa.





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## MORE ON WORK FURLOUGHS

various truck crops. Not County.  
only men, but women are In  
welcomed. countie

All workers will be paid the prevailing wage, which is determined by the Department of Agriculture for each given locality. For instance in Cache County (See above), the following figures are quoted for topping and loading: the maximum wage is \$1.55 per ton for acreages that yield 6 tons or less; the pay is then graduated to \$1.10 per ton for acreages that yield 18 tons or above. These figures are also observed in Utah

In addition to the counties already mentioned, Millard County has requested workers, as well as Franklin County in Idaho. More counties are expected to be named as their requests receive clearance from the state and county officials regarding the safety and protection of the farm workers.

Though workers have already been hired on a day-to-day basis for farms adjoining Topaz, the WRA is concerned with recruiting farm laborers on a con-

tract basis.

Workers are assured free transportation and meals to and from the place of work. Some employers have also expressed their willingness to allow workers to send for their families, with the proper clearance from the WRA. The employers will furnish housing for both workers and their families.

In many cases, farmers will find other jobs for the workers, which will extend beyond the harvest season into the winter. The WRA has allowed a certain period after the completion of the contracted work, wherein the worker may seek other employment if he desires.